

WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, BUILDING
No. 1054
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Chapman Avenue, near Lookout Mountain Road
Carson Vicinity
Skamania County
Washington

HABS WA-232-B

HABS

WA 232-B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104**

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WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

BUILDING #1054

HABS No. WA-232-B

- Location:** Wind River Administrative Site, Skamania County, Washington. This building fronts Chapman Avenue, the main north-south street through the site. It is the northernmost of the three historic residences near the center of the Avenue.
- U.S.G.S. Stabler 7.5' Quadrangle, 1983 Provisional Edition. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.583000.5072080
- Significance:** Building #1054 was built as the Wind River Experiment Station Office and Laboratory in 1912. Its significance lies in its relationship to the development of the Administrative Site, especially the Wind River Experiment Station. The early growth of this agency is reflected in this structure, the third built by the Experiment Station for its own use. It is the oldest surviving structure constructed by the Experiment Station. It is one of two buildings that survive from the first wave of development by the Experiment Station that occurred prior to 1920. It has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as it retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building embodies the feeling of the Arts and Crafts movement, common in residential construction at the time. The building was moved from its original location in December of 1935, yet it retained the same orientation to Chapman Avenue as it became a guesthouse and the Experiment Station constructed a new office (Building #1319) on its former site.
- Description:** The residence, building #1054, was the original Wind River Experiment Station Office, built in 1912 and moved in 1935 to its present location to make room for the present PNW Experiment Station Office. The exterior of the building has great integrity with respect to its original appearance. The interior, however has been extensively remodeled, especially on the ground floor where there are very few of the original features that are still in evidence. The building is a 1 1/2 story square structure, being 24 by 24 feet with a six-foot wide shed addition on the back, set on a 1935 poured concrete foundation. It has a steep pitched wood shingled gable roof with exposed rafter tails, large plain bargeboard and brackets supporting the roof at the gables. According to the National Register Nomination, the chimney was originally located on the ridge just left of center. And consequently when the building was moved, a new fireplace and chimney were constructed with the chimney being placed dead center on the ridge. A shed addition has been added to the back of the structure, assumably at the time of the move, where originally there had been only a small covered entrance porch. The building is covered by wood beveled edge shiplap siding with cornerboards. Although also of shiplap, the siding on the shed addition does not match that of the rest of the structure but is close.

The building is reached by a straight concrete walkway from Chapman Avenue up a set of four wooden steps onto a covered porch outside the centrally located front door with a modern porch light next to it. The porch is enclosed by a stick style railing with a 3" tongue and groove porch deck over which a small gabled portico projects, supported by square posts. The front door is wood with three vertical recessed molded panels with four lights above and plain stamped steel hardware plus a modern deadbolt lock and modern screen door. Flanking the entrance are four over four double hung wood sash windows with storm windows. Over the entrance, a wide shed dormer, framed by small brackets with two ten-light awning windows project from the roof. On the north elevation, a pair of four-over-four double hung windows with storm windows to the east and a single four-over-four window with storm window to the west are located on the ground floor with two four over four windows with screens in the gable. The other gable end of the house (south elevation) does not match this configuration but has a single four-over-four window with storm window to the west with a ten light, wood-sash casement window to the east. Centered in the gable end is another four-over-four window with a screen with a four-light, wood sash casement window to the east. The side door, into the shed extension, is a modern plain board door with a large, single light above. Across the back of the shed addition are three equally spaced wood windows – one singled frosted awning window and two, three light hopper windows. All window and door moldings are simple 1" by 6" boards with small projecting drip edges on all windows

The front door opens into the living room that makes up the entire front of the house. On the south end of the room a dogleg left flight of stairs leads to the upper floor. Directly across from the front door is a projecting brick fireplace with a brass flue adjusting mechanism, which is a characteristic feature of fireplaces built in the 1930's, according to the National Register Nomination. Doorways flank the fireplace. The single doorway on the left leads into a completely remodeled kitchen with a wide doorway on the other side that opens into a dining area where a corner has been enclosed for a new furnace. It is entirely possible that the interior configuration of the walls on the ground floor and the placement of the fireplace were different originally. Through remodeling, only the living room retains some of the original wide baseboards while all of the ceiling moulding has been replaced with modern cove molding. Only one original interior door remains on the ground floor, the door for the closet under the stairway retains a five panel wood sash door with plain stamped steel hardware. Except for the kitchen which has modern vinyl flooring, all the floors, upstairs and downstairs have been carpeted. A series of small rooms are located in the shed addition at the rear of the structure. Leading into the kitchen from the outside is a small-enclosed entry porch and leading off the kitchen is a laundry room and a bathroom with 1930's fixtures. All light fixtures in the house are modern.

The upstairs retains the most integrity. Halfway up the stairs is a doorway from which the door has been removed that probably was used to isolate the upstairs from the office when it was housed below. A stick style railing partially encloses the upstairs landing. At the head of the stairs, a doorway

leads to a small storage room while two long narrow bedrooms split the remaining north side of the house. The west bedroom has had shelving and cabinetry built under the eaves. The east bedroom retains a tall built-in cabinet with original five-recessed panels and stamped metal hardware, directly behind the door and a small built-in shelving next to that. Also leading off the upstairs landing is another storage closet, with a five-recessed panel door and original stamped metal hardware and molding. All the rooms retain the original plain board trim and baseboards, doors and hardware.

Historic Context: Building #1054 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history. It is an integral part of the Wind River Administrative Site, which contains several historic components. The Administrative Site contains representative structural examples from throughout its development, mirroring the development of the Forest Service as an agency. The Hemlock Ranger Station was established in 1906, the earliest Ranger Station office constructed on the Forest. The Wind River Nursery was one of the first of its kind in the country, growing trees for the reforestation of burned and logged over areas. The Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station originated at the Wind River site to provide scientific expertise to the early Nursery operation. These two entities worked hand in hand in developing the basic body of knowledge on which modern reforestation and forestry practices have been built. The Wind River Arboretum was also developed at the site, the oldest in the Pacific Northwest. Several buildings associated with the early development of the site have survived to the present, including this residence. These early structures, in addition to the CCC era buildings, provide a clear history of the development of the built environment at the Wind River Administrative Site.

Sources: Clark, Rosalind. Architecture: Oregon Style. Portland: Professional Book Center, Inc. 1983.

Harris, Cybil M. Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture. New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1983.

Horn, Jonathan. 1983 DRAFT National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Wind River Administrative Site. Manuscript on file, Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

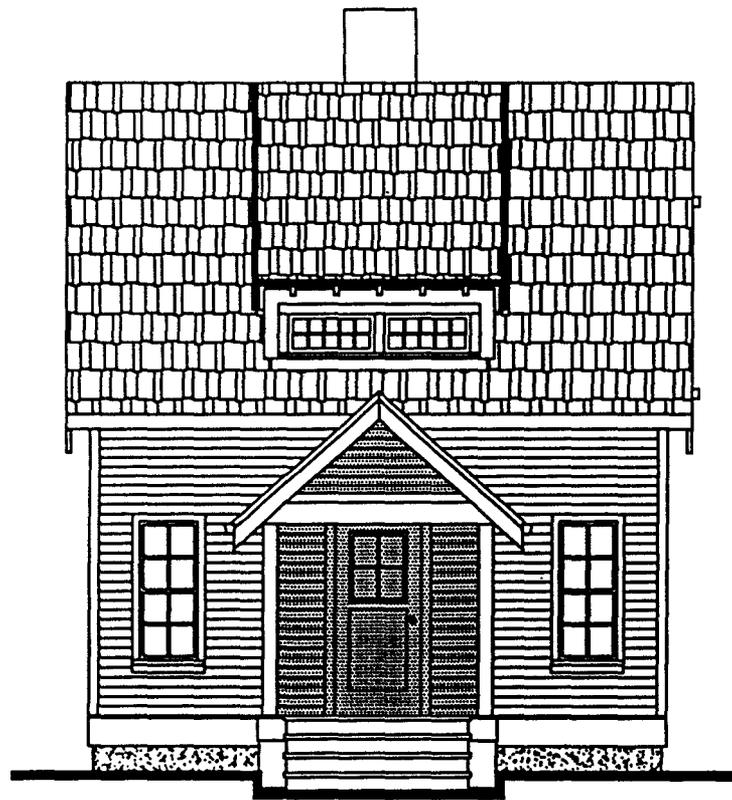
McAlester, Virginia and McAlester, Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1995.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: Penguin Books. 1980.

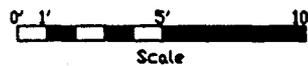
Project Information: This structure is being documented as a historic resource due to a land conveyance from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to Skamania County, Washington. The structure is included within the boundary of the conveyance, and will be transferred to the county. The documentation was prepared by Alex McMurry of the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program and Kathryn Toepel of Heritage Research Associates in May of 1999.

**Experimental Station Office
Constructed 1912**

Building elevation adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



East Elevation



**Experiment Station Office
Constructed 1912**

Building elevation adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.

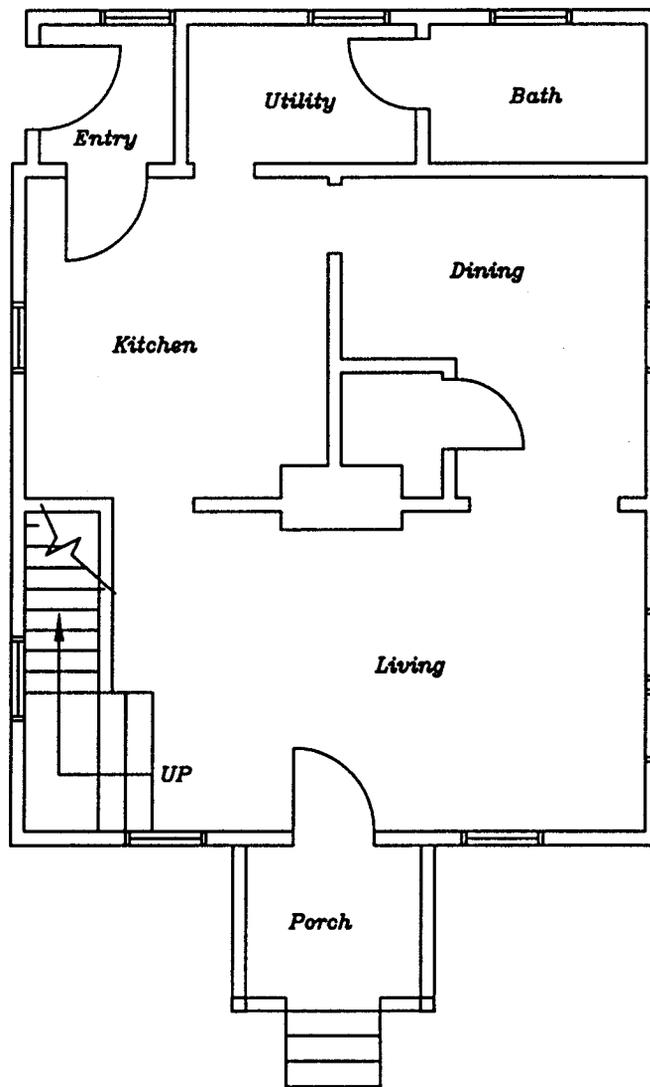


North Elevation



**Experiment Station Office
Constructed 1912**

Building floor plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.

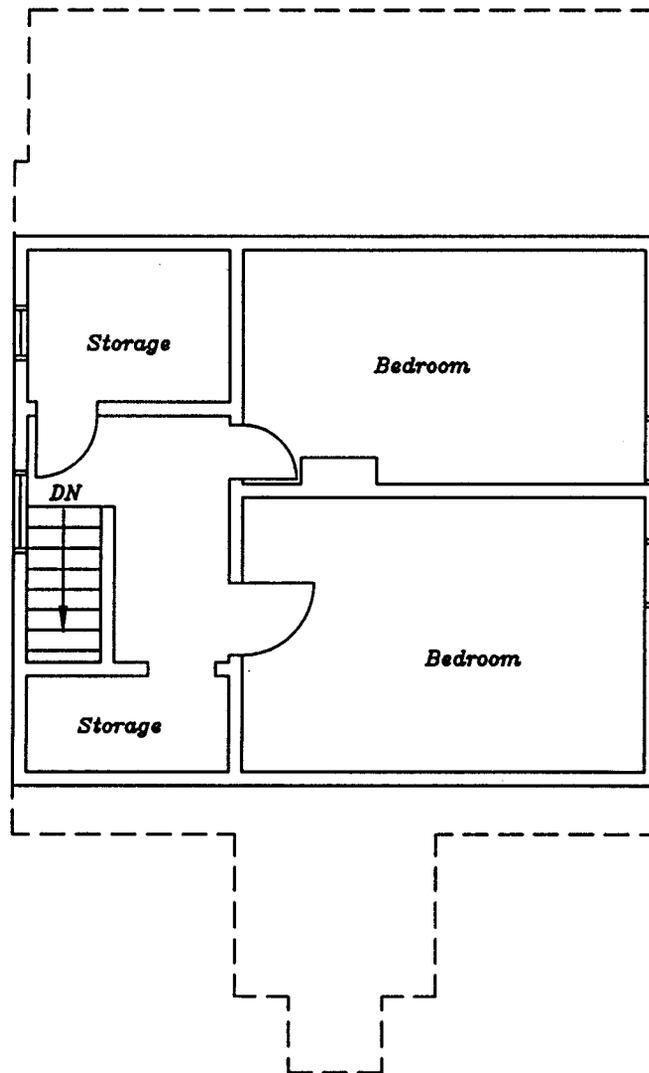


1st Floor Plan



**Experiment Station Office
Constructed 1912**

Building floor plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



2nd Floor Plan

